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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL
1999

5 April 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Security Research Staff

SUBJECT : REPORT FROM Jay Richard KENNEDY

1. Jay reported that following the assassination of the Reverend Martin Luther KING, Jim FARMER called Jay for advice. FARMER claimed that President JOHNSON by telephoning Whitney YOUNG and other Negroes of the same persuasian extending the President's sympathy on the untimely death of the Reverend KING manifests the belief that the President is misinformed in matters of this delicacy. FARMER claims that the Negroes are embittered and believe that if the President had not been spending all of our resources on winning the war in Viet Nam, this tragic event would not have occured.

2. According to KENNEDY, FARMER stated that he, FARMER, had been in touch with the Reverend FOUNTROY and FOUNTROY stated that the poor peoples march on Washington which KING was to lead on 22 April 1968 will still be held.

3. KENNEDY said that he had called Bill CONNELL and recommended that the President issue a proclamation which would make this weekend one of silent prayer. He suggested that the President call upon all ministers, rabbies and priests to concentrate on texts which would emphasize the need for peace in the world. KENNEDY said that he also suggested to Bill Connell that the President extend an invitation to Mahalia JACKSON to sing Sunday in a memorial service in Washington, D. C. at the Lincoln Memorial. KENNEDY said that he would be able to bring SINATRA to Washington at the same time to sing hymns known and loved by the black race. KENNEDY said that today at sundown begins the Jewish Sabbath and that he had urged Bill CONNELL to request that his suggestions be acted upon forthwith. KENNEDY said that he hates to see this government reacting to notification that the New York Stock Exchange will shtt down its trading at 11:00 today and use the time for silent prayer. KENNEDY said that he also noted that campuses all over the United States have also agreed to hold memorial services. He thinks that this government should be way out front in this regard and not react untimely to the practices put into motion by the Stock Exchange and the colleges.

Cecil C. Tighe

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